DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b). The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has not yet submitted its final report on the enquiry/investigation started by it regarding alleged financial irregularities in the case of National Open School.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Pak Foreign Minister's Willingness to Hold Talks

3782. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan Foreign Minister has expressed willingness to hold talks on Kashmir issue under the Simla accord; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Foreign Minister of Pakistan in his letter of felicitations to our External Affairs Minister on his assumption of office stated that he hoped that India and Pakistan would work together to resolve the outstanding issues between the two countries.

(b) External Affairs Minister in his reply said that India would endeavour to establish a relationship based on friendship and cooperation with Pakistan. He suggested that the officials of the two countries should meet soon to address bilateral issues. Pakistan's response is awaited.

[Translation]

Pension Scheme for Ex-Servicemen

3783. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have introduced or propose to introduce any pension scheme for the veteran ex-servicemen or for the widows of the soldiers of 'Azad Hind Fauz' who had fought for the country during the Second World War;

(b) whether several representation have been received by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide all those facilities to them, which are being provided to freedom fighter, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (e). Union Government has neither introduced nor propose to introduce any pension scheme for veterans of World War-II. Under the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 widows of ex-INA personnel are eligible for pension if their husbands suffered minimum six months imprisonment/detention out side India while fighting against the British Regime for India's Independence.

2. Government have been receiving representation from time to time for grant of pension to World War-II veterans. The demand of the World War II Veterans for grant of pension was considered by the Committee on Remainder Problems of ex-Servicemen. The committee did not find the demand acceptable because pension could not be given without linkage to a minimum period of service.

3. At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for grant of facilities to World War II Veterans at par with Freedom fighters.

Medical Facilities

3784. SHRI NITISH KUMAR:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed a target to provide medical facilities to whole of the country by 2000 A.D.;

(b) if so, whether according to a study conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research, only 15% of health employees are available as per the requirement in the Primary Health Centres established by the Government in the country?

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(d) whether Government are in the position of achieving the target fixed; and

(e) if not, the time limit fixed for providing medical facilities to all the citizens in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Preventive, Promotive and curative services are provided country wide on a population basis. Planning Commission lays down year wise and level wise targets under Minimum Needs Programme of the States. For the 8th Plan the targets to be established so far are given in statement. At

Sub-districts and district level in urban areas Post Partum centres are established through government and through voluntary organisations to provide maternal and child health care. The total number established so far is 1562. Government also establish hospitals in urban areas to cater to the needs of people.

(b) and (c). The ICMR had conducted a study through Human Reproduction Research Centres on quality of Family Welfare services at PHC level (1991) covering 398 PHCs. In that study it was inter-alia observed that the positioning of manpower in most states corresponded to the sanctioned posts but there has a need to increase the staff strength to meet health delivery norms. The State Governments have been advised on several occasions to fill vacant posts and see that deficiencies in the rural health services are not allowed to persist.

(d) and (e). A review of the progress in achievement of goals set out in the National Health Policy, 1983, indicates that only some of the goals are likely to be achieved in full by 2000 A.D. The targets likely to be achieved relate to infant Mortality Rate, Crude Death Rate, Life Expectancy at Birth, Immunisation goals for pregnant women and for infants and elimination of Leprosy. In the case of diseases like Tuberculosis and Blindness Control and other indicators more time would be needed to achieve the goal fully.

STATEMENT

Statement showing position of Health Institutions in Rural Areas

Health Institutions	Population norms		8th Plan targets	Established upto 31.12.1995
	in Plains	in hills		
Sub-Centres	5000	3000	17030	132285
PHCs	30000	20000	4450	21802
CHSs	80000 to 1.2 lakh		1269	2401

PHCs - Primary Health Centres

CHSs - Community Health Centres

[English]

Erosion of Rivers in North-East

3785. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the specific steps taken by the Government to check soil erosion by rivers in North-East?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): The Brahmaputra Board established by the Union Government in December 1981, in the Master Plans prepared by them for flood management in the North Eastern region, has identified several sites viz: Majuli, Tezpur, Sonarighat, Mukalmua, Gumi, Palasbari, Goalpara, Mariahola, Hathala on Brahmaputra and Tarapur Shibbari on Barak as major erosion prone areas. The Master Plans have been sent to the North Eastern States for implementation of individual anti-erosion schemes to protect these areas.

Common School Programme

3786. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal for a 'common school programme' to make education system better and to impart common education to all throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c). Maintenance of broad commonality of standards in all the schools of the country has been sought to be achieved by the following ways:—

(i) Making available to all the schools, a broadly uniform pattern of syllabi/textbooks designed on the basis of National Curricular Framework for elementary and secondary education brought out by the National Council of Educational Research & Training (NCERT).

(ii) Requiring all the schools sending their students for Board Examinations to be affiliated to the concerned State Board, the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) or the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, as the case may be.

(iii) Improving the physical facilities and other educational inputs in schools through a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Programmes.

By Pass on N.H.31

3787. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1361 on July 22, 1996 and state:

(a) the year in which the said work was actually started;